American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Esther Morse Papers, 1921 – 1965

Series II

Diaries

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October 3, 1930 – June 7, 1931

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foreign and western in the furnishings of rooms, and I hope to refrain from it myself. I'm probably just hopelessly old-fashioned!

Following the call at Appletons we returned to find a real Chinese meal waiting for us. Mrs S. said she didn't know what we would have --she had told the cook to get it ready for eight people. Because of Mr. French & Mrs. Thomas' absence Dr & Mrs Seaton & Mrs. Bercovitz were present, Mr McGinnis, Mrs. French, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs Steiner & myself. I can't begin to describe all we had. There was chicken soup--eaten with big china spoons & one helped oneself to more from the big bowl with these same spoons. There was duck stuffed with barley, giblets, gizzards & mushrooms, chicken, vegetables, more soup, rice, tea & for dessert a steamed pudding called '8 Precious Fruits.' It was all good & I enjoyed most of it. We were supposed to eat with chop-sticks & I did tho' it slowed me up considerably! I think I could learn to use them in time. Mr. McGinnis--or Griffith as I should call him, I suppose--certainly enjoyed himself! No wonder he weighs 200!

Afterwards, Mrs Thomas let Griffith have the keys to the car & he brought us all home. He drives awfully fast but seems to know how to handle a car.

I stayed all nite with Evelyn & we talked 'til late, on a variety of subjects. She is certainly interesting. Perhaps I talked too much --I don't know. She seems to feel there is no stability in the friendships of women. Either she has had some disappointment in a friendship, or else she hasn't learned to accept the vagaries of womankind with philosophic calm. Or, both.

The men returned from Kachek late Wednesday nite. They had found the roads rather bad in spots, but feel that everyone enjoyed the trip, nevertheless.

Miss Forbes & Miss McCreery came to call Wednesday PM. They are both fine girls and have a fine irrepressible spirit. I'm glad I'm not living with them tho' I'm afraid I'm getting too tired to appreciate spontaneity--I need to rest & get into a rut for a while. Oh, I'll be so glad to get to Kachek.

Mrs. Bercovitz invited me to her home for dinner on Thursday evening. Dr. Chu, Dr. Li and wife were the other guests. I went in the P.M. when Miss Skinner & Mrs. Campbell were going & took my dress along with me. When we went past the hospital we saw some one in the OR but I didn't go over--later, wished I had for Dr. B. had a very interesting & difficult vesical calculus to remove. He said it was a very messy case but tremendously interesting. After while the nurses & Mrs. Tappan dropped in & we all gossiped(!) a bit. A former servant of some of the missionaries, who trains dogs & horses, bro't a pony in for the children to ride a bit. Betty Steiner & David Thomas rode him fearlessly. Mrs. Seaton was fussy about her youngsters even getting near the pony. So was Mrs. Bercovitz but she restrained her fears--enough not to restrict the youngsters in their interests in the pony.

Later. I put on my blue chiffon dress & Mrs. Bercovitz exclaimed at length over the dress. I judged from my very plainness on other occasions she was surprised that I even had as fluffy a dress at that! I think everyone is surprised when they see me in it.

It was a very nice dinner nicely served. The main dish was chicken pilau which was excellent. I made a faux pas, of course! Dr Chu & Mrs. Li, Dr. & Mrs. Bercovitz and Mrs. Seaton were easily the main conversationalists. Dr Li does his share of talking easily--but Dr. Seaton is inclined to be quiet--and, I, also, am no conversationalist in a group--if ever. But I think I can listen.

Dr. Li was born in Singapore & educated there & in the U.S. Mrs.

Li is Hawaiian born and speaks English very well--better than her husband--really. They are both very interesting talkers, too. She looks tired & a bit older than he--perhaps because she isn't too well & is nursing a baby, too. They have a girl of four, a boy of two, and a baby of 6 months.

Mrs. Seaton sang a couple of songs for us--one was of concert quality and she did it justice. Her voice is mezzo-soprano, I think --possibly lyric soprano ? I heard her practicing before dinner 'How beautiful upon the mountains'--and it is a lovely thing. Her voice & music must be quite an asset to her at all times and especially in the isolation of the life here. In like manner Mrs. Bercovitz talent as pianist must be not only a pleasure but a thing of profit.

After the other guests had gone Mrs. Bercovitz & Mrs. Seaton took me over to the Ku-niang's bungalow for the nite. The air was cool and the wind fresh & damp but it didn't seem half as cool to me as to them--they seemed quite frozen up.

Some American mail had come in and was delivered during dinner. There were three letters & a package for me--so I read them before going to bed. One was from Dad & another from Alice. I judge from her letter that Dad's farewell to me on August 23rd was to him as if he would never see me again. I hope my letters can dissuade him of that, and I do hope to see him again.

After an average nite I awoke quite determined to come out here in time for my lesson at 9:00, but there were a variety of excuses offered and I succumbed. Must confess to being extremely restless. Sat in clinic & watched cases come & go. Heard little I could distinguish, tho'.

Had lunch with the nurses & then did come back by bus alone. Can do it Okeh now I know.

While watching the people in clinic I kept noticing the faces--each with definite and individual expressions. The women mostly look older than they are. Saw one 18-yr old girl--she was short & her face was unlined but sallow & someway looked old. Her hair was coiled neatly at the back but her whole aspect was that of age rather than youth. Most of the women wear earrings of one sort or another--saw even babes in arms with little ornaments in their ears. One young mother came with her 6-month old baby. She was from one of the wealthy families, Dang d-tae said. She was dressed in colors rather than the black the coolie women wear. The baby also was more fully clothed than the usual infant. The mother's sister accompanied them--she was a young thing with rouged lips and both these girls were pretty, as was the baby, who was hospitalized because of pertussis + a wheeze in his left lung.

I like the trousers the women wear--they look comfortable and modest. I'm for 'em.

The clinics are awfully noisy but in view of the fact that these people enjoy noise it is probably less distressing to them than if everything was quiet. I think, in remembering back, our own U. of N. dispensary wasn't any too quiet, either!

The men's faces are just as interesting as the women's. Mostly the faces are thin and wrinkled and beardless. Occasionally one sees a little moustache. The very, very old men often have long scanty, straggly moustache & whiskers, & not infrequently a tiny queue. If this is present it may be gray, but gray or graying hair isn't always or often seen even among the old people. The skin of the coolies seen

at work is sometimes wrinkled & dry, apparently from exposure rather than anything else.

The babies heads are shaved & then they wear little caps or bands around the head. Some of the bands are quite gaily ornamented.

The school boys and soldiers wear caps which are deep & fit well over the head. The visors are very short & broad and come so low over the eyes that the effect is odd.

Both men and women wear the big straw hats which curve down sharply & have such crowns, so-- They have strings coming from in front of & behind the ears & these tie under the chin. Some of the hats have a peak, so but in that case they are broader & have a sort of band inside that fits right on the head.

Another thing noted was the prevalence of long fingernails--and dirty ones on both men & women. I suppose all are dirty in our dispensary at home too, but the nails are shorter & so they are less noticeable.

So many gold teeth, crowned & bridged & filled! So many decaying snags, so many retracted and reddened gums, so many toothless gums!

And I find I'm looking at these people thro' their eyes, in some ways. My attitude is becoming less and less Occidental.

October 4.

Had a very restless nite--with hot & cold spells. Took quinine this A.M. Wonder why I'm so tired?

October 6.

Yesterday was communion Sunday in Kiungchow--Big Sunday as it is called here. There was a more than usually large group of people present. During the sermon there was all the usual moving about and restlessness but as soon as the other service began everything was very still. The children of one Christian couple were baptized and there was as much interest and craning of necks at this ceremony as ever occurred at home. And all during the administering of the sacraments the church was absolutely quiet. This service obviously means to these people all it is meant to mean to a Christian. I enjoyed the service greatly.

In the afternoon the service for missionaries was held in Hoihow with Mr. French as leader. Dr. Bercovitz had asked several of the Chinese in Hoihow to attend. Mr. French gave a very fine talk and to the point. It was much praised by all and the thing which seemed to impress some was the ease with which he spoke.

I was so tired on our return. There is so much chatter down there and one feels cross-currents of feeling, frequently--hard to analyze currents sometimes. I have always felt some lack of ease in the presence of both the doctor's wives, and last nite sensed some animosity between Mrs. Bercovitz and Mrs. Steiner. Maybe I'm just borrowing trouble--but such feelings so put me on my guard. I wonder if Mrs. B. is jealous of her husband! I don't want to be suspicious of people, but neither do I want to be dumb.

Today while at lunch we heard a bugle sound & I was told it meant someone was on the way to be executed. Some little ways out from Kiungchow on the road to Hoihow is a stone wall in a field & it is here all executions are done. Quite soon we heard ten shots ring out --one life for each shot. I had the oddest feeling at the pit of my stomach. This is the nearest I've ever been to sudden and violent death--by intention. I've been interested in the attitude of the missionaries toward the warfare hereabouts. They apparently regret

the warfare for the sake of the Chinese, who are the real sufferers but there is a curious hardness in their attitude, especially toward the communists. They seem to feel that only by total extermination of the communists, not only here but thro'out China,--and elsewhere--can peace ever come. Perhaps the horrible things they have seen & experienced have given them this apparent indifference & hardness. Perhaps this is the way folks come to feel who went thro' the years of 1914-1918 in Europe. I'm wondering--but I'm not letting myself dwell on the horror of it.

Perhaps we can go to Kachek soon. I'll be so glad. But, however --I'm glad I've been here in this household during the weeks of waiting. I doubt if I could have endured it anywhere else.

October 7.

Yesterday P.M. Mr. McGinnis had his heart set on going swimming and so chartered a truck and asked some of the teachers at his school to go too. The party included Miss Skinner, Miss Chapin, the Frenches, Mr Wan, Mr Wong, Mr. Fong, Mr Lee, Mr. McGinnis & myself. Miss Chapin, Mr. Wong & myself did not swim but went for the excursion. The swimming beach is down the coast from Hoihow, off the Nodoa road a ways--is near the lighthouse & is perhaps six miles from Hoihow. The roads were very poor--rough and uneven but the scenery out that way differs some from this out this way. The way is hilly and on the flats below are beautiful green rice fields, while nearer the town are the salt flats. This island is quite prolific in the variety of industries it presents and in the many products it can raise. The salt produced here is of quality adequate for culinary uses, tho' not for table use. We saw indigo growing on the uplands yesterday. There were many more cattle grazing out that way, too. The beach is maintained by the Customs & a bathhouse has been built there--cement foundations & floor, so that if the frame structure is ever destroyed by a typhoon the floor at least will remain. On the tiny verandah were two cement tables with little chairs about them--and tea may be secured if desired, for a coolie is kept there all the time. A little lagoon extends up close to the door. The surf is a short ways off. The coolie takes a boat out to deep water & anchors so that it may be used as a diving float. The beach is sandy--lovely yellow sand--and the slope is very gradual & shelving. Ere long the Thomases, Seatons, Mrs Tappan & Mrs Steiner with their respective families and the Bercovitz boys arrived. Mrs. Seaton & Mrs. Steiner did not go in tho' the children did & everyone seemed to enjoy it immensely.

Griffith was awfully nice to the youngsters. The Chinese fellows didn't stay in long--whether they don't care for the water or whether their resistance is lower, I'm not prepared to say. Mr. Lee is a very interesting looking man. The ride back was over another road but only a trifle less rough & we were all tired by the time we got back.

Today is Griffith's birthday & a surprise was arranged for him by Mrs. Campbell & Miss Skinner. Since Art's birthday is the 12th two cakes were made and a double surprise party arranged. The whole group from Hoihow except Miss Forbes were up and tea was served on the lawn over at Campbell's. I think the fellows were genuinely surprised and everyone seemed to have a good time. It was impossible to get them all together for a picture but I took one of the youngsters & one of Art. Hope they'll be good. I don't know--sometimes I feel out of place in this group & sometimes I feel quite a part of it. This was one of the latter times!

October 8. P.M.

Last nite about 8:30/the French's came over to let me know that we were to start for Kachek in the A.M. It was short notice but I finished most of my packing before retiring. However I didn't sleep very much even after midnite and was early awake. Miss Skinner & Miss Chapin had a very lovely enameled napkin clip at my place at breakfast--a parting gift. It has my Chinese name on it and I'm ever so pleased with it. We had been due to leave at 9:00 A.M. but it was 10:30 as we pulled away from the compound gates. Dr. Bercovitz, Dr Lee and Tsok Si were in front & the Frenches & myself occupied the back seat. Just after we crossed the river by ferry--the Golden River--the Thomas family drove up on the other side. We didn't wait for them there but drove on and waited at some market for them. Then Mr. French took the wheel of the Dr's car & Dr. drove the Thomas car. Some distance farther, and we had been driving fast--the left brace holding the Kari-Keen on the rear of the Thomas car gave way & let the carrier sag. Inasmuch as it was heavily loaded it had to be fixed someway--and was, temporarily by a rope passed over the top to the front bumper. Then we went on again but more slowly & about 1:00 P.M. stopped for a bit of lunch. We had only just gotten on the way again when we came to a muddy stretch with a detour to the right. Dr. had been stuck in the detour the week before so while the main road looked pretty soft he told Art to go ahead. The first plunge sank us to the hub in muck but we kept on & nearly made it out when the rear wheels swung over & we couldn't get out. So all passengers got out & by dint of some pushing we got out Okeh. The Thomas car went to the right & got thro' Okeh, finding that a culvert had been put in the detour! After this the engine seemed to have no power & we had to stop on the hill & the men went over the engine & found the pipe line clean but that a richer mixture was needed. That dispensed with we progressed steadily until Dr's car had a flat. That taken care of we had no further casualties and reached Kachek safely about 3:30 P.M.

The road--in general--wasn't bad. Where dry it was packed to a shiny hardness like oiled gravel or dirt roads attain. There are numerous dips and curves--some extremely short curves. Apparently the road was laid out with an eye to expediency rather than comfort. There were only one or two muddy places. I can't feel the roads are anything to feel bad about--having ridden over Holt County roads!

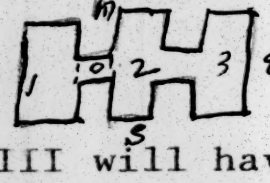
The countryside all the way down here is interesting--out from Kiungchow for a ways it is level and low--saw one stretch of level rather sandy soil that was free from trees--and might have been out on the Gravel Ridge north of Stuart. But for most part there are areas of vegetation--scrubby trees, wild pineapple, all sorts of shrubs and plants--along the fields, separating rice fields from each other--and so on. Across the river the country almost at once begins to rise and one sees hills--oftentimes terraced clear to the top. It is interesting that many of these terraces are no longer cultivated but have grown up to grass and are now used for grazing--and are short & velvety right now as if grazed rather close. Another thing of interest is that along the lower edge of the terraces only does one find shrubbery--in places, this being of such regular recurrence that it looks almost like landscaping.

Soon after we crossed the river we saw mountains in the distance--the first a rather isolated old volcanic crater. Later on we kept seeing distant blue ridges off to the west and south. At times we could see the dim blue outlines of another range beyond the nearer range. A haze hung over the mountains. The general effect was that

of Western Washington as I saw it over a year ago. As we came nearer Kachek we saw more & more palm trees--the vegetation by the roadside became more dense--in one or two places we drove thro' shady lanes with overhanging branches. The trees are seldom very high, but the undergrowth is more dense. There are many graves scattered over the countryside but in general they are less dense than around Hoihow & Kiungchow. Griffith has said many times that all China is a graveyard and I can believe it more than ever.

The compound here is large & not the smooth greensward of the city or of the port compounds. It slopes toward the river and has little gulches running across it. A stone, rather reinforced concrete wall encloses much of it and a high woven wire fence the rest. The house in which I am to live is rather desolate looking but Mr. Tappan says it is the best & strongest built of any here. The Thomas house is the newest but has required more repairs than any other. The Tappan house, probably because someone has been occupying it continuously looks the most comfortable and livable.

After a few words of greeting, etc., after my arrival Dr. Bercovitz took me over to the hospital. At first I couldn't get a very good idea of part of it because of the building still going on but later I came to visualize the plans and feel I have the general idea to be carried out as time and funds permit. The original plan was this:



Funds were not forthcoming to carry out this entire plan after it had all been started--so wing I has been completed and one storey of wing II. For the present wing III will have to be abandoned. As now arranged maternity occupies north ward 2nd floor & men's surgical is 1st floor north. The wards will accomodate twelve beds each and there are about two private rooms on each floor. That makes a present bed capacity of about 52. The part of wing II that is being finished is to be used for clinic purposes. The space indicated as 'o' in the sketch is the present operating room. It has east, north & south lighting & is cool.

October 10.

Dr. Bercovitz on Thursday A.M. saw to moving the pts. already present in the old hospital over to the new--6 maternity and five men patients. In the P.M. he did two operations--(1) dissection of lymph nodes from left side of neck--diagnosis : lymphosarcoma; (2) repair of fistulous tract between bladder & perineum (?) of boy gored by cow 5 months ago. He does careful & consistent work. I certainly admired the way he did the neck case--in the midst of nerves & large vessels, etc. No 1 boy--Bang Tintae or Zong Hoa--is a good assistant, too. Dr. Lee scrubbed to assist, too.

Dr. Bercovitz is an odd mixture of temperament and practicality. He has lived for 8 yrs on this compound & two of his children were born here, the hospital is his own brain child and many of the improvements here he has had a hand in. He loves this place--the tropic quality of its scenery, the mountains, the beauty round about. And just now he is homesick for his beloved California. He wanted me to get the beauty of this place, the 'feel' for it that he has and I think he left reasonably reassured that I had. I do like it and am beginning to feel at home. I can feel the beauty here tho' I'm less prone to speak of it than some. And, whatever may come, I go on record now, stating that I admire the ideals of Dr. Bercovitz and he has my fealty from now on.

The first nite we were here was just after the full moon and it was so lovely out of doors. The shadows were not too dense and the light was glorious.

This A.M. we went over and I assisted Dr B. in the removing of a malignant growth from the parotid gland of an 8-mo.old infant, and in the resection of some the glands of the neck--caseous already & very messy.

About 10:00 A.M. Dr. B. and Mr. Tappan started for Hoihow for the weekend, i.e.--Mr. Tappan expects to be back next week. I don't know quite how the French's felt but I know I felt rather alone & think they shared the feeling. I feel quite sure Dr Lee is homesick, too.

About 11:30 Mr. Thomas came over saying Bong Tintae had a case he wanted me to see--a woman with a dislocated lower maxilla of 5 days duration. I couldn't do anything with it either so had the pt. anesthetized & then he reduced the dislocation. I was glad he did it--and yet am glad I suggested the use of the anesthetic--it makes it more of a 50-50 proposition.

October 19.

Quite a number of interesting things have occurred in the interval since the last entry. We three new people took our meals at Thomas' until Mr. Tappan's return and we had some very enjoyable times there. The phonograph furnished much amusement and entertainment. Of course, everyone thinks he, or she, is better qualified to bring up youngsters than anyone else and feels that another's efforts are futile or misguided! Nevertheless the Thomas' family are being taught the Psalms and to repeat them at meal time, and to say the blessing and other similar things that many of us never learn until we are grown. I know none of the Psalms--not even the 23rd, so I can say it readily.

On Sunday, the 12th, we went to church. The service was mostly unintelligible but the experience of being there was worth while. There were, perhaps, a hundred people there. The men outnumbered the women. There was some confusion of persons coming & going but not a lot. The soldiers who came & went at will really caused the most confusion. There were more children than I saw at any service in Kiungchow. The humorous parts of the service occurred near the close of the sermon when an old man walked up to the rostrum & looked closely at the clock there and then resumed his seat! And just after this the postman came with letters for all of us and for one or more others in the congregation!

In the afternoon we went for a walk to the south east of the compound, along the stream. It was interesting, especially when we got to the ridge to the east, noting the rice fields on the other side and the way they seem to follow old stream beds. Looking south and west we could see the mountains dimly--there was rather too much haze for a good clear view.

In the evening we had another celebration of Mr. French's birthday with a birthday cake. The youngsters had a great time about it.

Monday I made over an old uniform & used the sewing machine at Thomas'--I think it will do fairly well tho' the sewing I did is nothing to brag about.

On Tuesday--Oct. 14--was called to the Hospital to see an emergency case. A man had his left hand nearly blown off with gunpowder--the thumb & first two fingers were just shreds--the whole hand was disarticulated at the wrist and the blood loss was tremendous. My judgment was to amputate & at once. But Loe Tintae was expected for the first time that day & I hadn't the nerve to cut the first lesson so I told Dr. Lee & Zong Hoa to go ahead & amputate--that I would look in but couldn't stay. Went over & they were doing a nice job. Think I'd have been more radical in some items than they were!

The next day Mr. Tappan & Miss McCreery came down & we all began get our meals here again. Creery had bro't her cook down with her & so we were able to get along nicely. She also bro't me a lot of mail

Thursday, the 16th, mission meeting was held. We new ones could only look & listen--it was interesting--in a way. The hospital made its expenses except for medecines. Financial reports weren't as depressing as one might have expected! Anyway, it was our first meeting and was attended with some show of formality.

Meanwhile we were having 2 hours of language study in the mornings amd 1½ hours in the PM. The teacher is slow and, probably because Miss Moninger isn't here, is not making any hurry in his efforts. Evelyn gets quite distressed because of his slowness.

Saturday P.M. we were looking for Dr. Bercovitz to come down for Big Sunday. Along about 3:30 the truck came down with some of Miss Moninger's effects aboard, and the things the Thomas family had ordered from Hongkong--so we knew she was in the island and probably would be down. We were all scurrying around--the French's putting up their new bed, Mr. Tappan moving a big roll-top desk from the Manse over here to his house, Mr Thomas going here & yon. It was Mr. Tappan's birthday and we had planned to have tea here in his honor & it was just ready when the doctor's car arrived with Miss Moninger, Mrs. Seaton and Ronald. Then there were happy greetings all round. Mrs. Thomas looked so nice in her yellow linen dress. It is a striking dress and a fine color for her to wear. Mrs. Seaton had never been down here before and the compound & its buildings were all new to her. Some things were new to Miss Moninger, too for it had been six years since she had been here. She was full of pep and enthusiasm about China Council even tho' she was worn out with much travel.

The doctor made rounds at the hospital & came back all wrought up because Zong Hoa had done some operative work unnecessarily--a Tbc hip being the prime offense. He wants to work out some scheme by which I should Okeh all operations, before these young enthusiasts go too far! Miss McCreery & Miss Moninger sat on him for his suggestions. I felt torn between the opposing wills. I slept restlessly last nite--the problem much on my mind. This AM I had come to the conclusion to do as much as I could to reconcile both opinions. It seems I'm fated to be a go-between all my life! So I told doctor I'd go to the hospital bi-weekly and report to him weekly--and he asked me to do it unofficially! And that's that!

Today was Big Sunday. People had been coming in for this event for two days. Nine candidates for baptism were examined and six accepted on Saturday. Early this morning a short prayer service for the day's services was held at the pastor's home. When we went over at 10:30 the church was full. It created quite a sensation to have so many foreigners at a Big Sunday service. There were Mrs. Seaton, Miss Moninger, Miss McCreery, Evelyn, Art, Dr. B. Mr. Tappan, Mr Thomas, Daniel & David and myself.

There was considerable disturbance & noise during the opening service but when Pastor Ngou began to pray the room became relatively quiet and at the close of the prayer a united and fervent Amen rose from the men's section. The sermon was long but (said those who could understand) excellent. I tried to keep track of the words I could understand and put down about 40. There may have been some others but I was sure only of these. The text was Titus 3:2. The men were

attentive and quiet, the older women also listened gravely, but there was a low hum of conversation, especially on the women's side of the church. Infants cried, a dog growled & barked, and older children moved around--all minor disturbances. Several vendors had to be sent out of the church--to them any gathering is legitimate field for selling their wares.

The organ was an object of much interest. Youngsters crowded around while Miss McCrerry played and during the sermon there were from one to three who were around it, fingering the carvings on it, the keys, etc. One boy hung his pith hat on the end of the organ.

Another boy was adventurous--tho' probably it was not adventure but desire for comfort that urged him--and ascended the platform and sat in one of the pulpit chairs.

Passersby, attracted by the music and by the crowds, came to look in the windows--some looked and passed on, others stayed and seemed to listen.

A few of the women and men fell asleep--but relatively fewer than in a group of similar size at home!

Two infants were baptized and six adults. One of the adults, a man of mature years, a farmer, has known the Gospel for a long time --his sons have been educated in the mission school, two having since died and the remaining son was captured by bandits a week ago and he may not be living now.

During the Communion service there was relative quiet and attention. Mr. Tappan & Mr. Thomas took part in the service. During the latter part of this service I slipped out & over to the house for my kodak. Took four exposures as the people were coming out of the church. Wanted a snapshot of Tsok Si & Dr Lee but they hid behind their parasols!

This afternoon, late we went for a walk over north west of the compound, to a hill which overlooks the river. It was pretty but must be much prettier in the spring when the rice is green. The mountains in the distance, the river in the middle distance and the rice fields at one's feet would make a nice picture. Someday must get it.

So tired tonight. Feel the lack of sleep now.

October 31.

One's own emotional reactions are interesting but rather harrowing. Am learning a great deal about myself these last few days! But its better for me to be dissected emotionally by myself than to attempt any such dissection of another! I'm inclined to think that this period of language study & readjustment is much harder temperamentally than the most grilling physical work could possibly be. There are so many factors in it. New environment, a determination to 'get along' with everything & anybody, crowded living quarters & no privacy are certainly factors in my own case. I think the last point counts for as much as anything in my case. I've waited and longed for my own room for months and tho't it was in my grasp & now, for the considerations of others (which is right, of course,) I can't have privacy after all--for another period of time!

I find my temper more on edge than it has been for ages. In spite of my beliefs to the contrary, I feel my mind excusing my temper on the grounds of the physical state I'm in. This physical state is nothing of consequence, & yet it has been interesting enough to make me wonder if I'm entering the climacteric. No period for 7 weeks, then an irregular flow for a week & now two weeks later an apparently

normal period. The first climacteric symptom was a very characteristic 'hot flash'! So--I'm perhaps more conscious of my body than ordinary. It's interesting--but annoying--to find tears very close to the surface always--to note that little things hurt which would scarcely have been pin-pricks heretofore--to find myself weighing motives more closely than ever--to find memory thrusting up old wounds for fresh consideration--to feel the heaviness of total--aloneness.

November 3.

I haven't made any entries for so long I will have forgotten events soon. I think one of the outstanding events so far as I am concerned was the correction given me by Miss M. on the 27th ult. for presuming to intimate that any degree of intimacy might ever exist. Certainly, now, there will never be any. It has made a very definite difference in my feelings--~~was a~~ direct slap then, and has made me more intolerant than I could have supposed possible a few months ago. It is hard not to show how I feel, too, and at times I can 'get by' Okeh. Must try to do so always.

On Nov. 1, Dr. Bercovitz and Miss Forbes & Mr. McGinnis came down for over Sunday. Was glad to see them all. Am learning that Miss F. has never been particularly compatible and that has been part of the cause of her periods of repeated ill health. Naturally enough everyone talks freely to everyone else about it, (and I'll probably be, if I'm not already, discussed in the same way.) It's too bad that she isn't working out well. I'm sorry for her and for the possibilities she seems to be neglecting.

Mr. McGinnis watched me Sunday just as Mrs. Campbell used to. Thank the Lord I'm not near either of them much!

November 15.

With no entries for twelve days, there is probably a great deal to write--how well I can remember is another item entirely! Relative to the events noted above, matters have simmered down considerably and there is less friction than I anticipated some time ago!

About a week ago we received word that Dr Scott would be down here in Hainan about November 13. Mr. Tappan had planned to go out to Hoihow on 11/8/30 and take Mr. & Mrs. French with him, but on receipt of that news decided to stay here and press work on the compound. Mrs. & Mr. French were both quite disappointed. They are getting fed up on the isolation & on the language study, too, I believe. But to add to their interest in things here, Mr. Lim asked if they would teach English in the boy's school--and on 11/10/30 they had their first class in the subject & both seem interested & enthusiastic in the work.

One day last week we noticed that Tin Hoa had an infected finger. I sent him to the dispensary but it soon proved necessary to make a deep & radical opening. On 11/11/30 he was anesthetized & drainage instituted. He had a bad night and an uncomfortable day but by 11/13/30 was better & is improving quite rapidly now. It bothered him not to be able to work during these days when there was so much to do, and we missed him, too, for he is a very fine coolie.

On 11/8/30 Miss M. & I made curtains for the lower rooms of the house from the Philippine goods Miss McCreery sent down. We finished them up about noon & I worked all P.M. on some old uniforms & finished one of them. I had previously cut out a dress & wanted to sew on it but felt the uniforms easier to do in the time at my disposal.

Sunday, 11/9/30, was a usual day--service by Mr. Ngôu--recognized 64 words & phrases. After the P.M. service went for a walk--and over the hill east of the compound & back via the stone bridge and the hospital. Mr. Tappan & Mr. Thomas have been talking the past few days about asking for money to finish the rest of the second wing as originally planned. We talked about plans for it and it seems feasible in some ways.

Everyone worked all the time getting ready for Dr. Scott's coming. Made me think of our flurry of preparation back in 1911 "'Cause Aunt Letty's coming!" On Tuesday P.M.--11/11/30--Mr Tappan gave a very interesting dissertation on the Chinese Christian Church.

Lôe Tintae did not come Wednesday P.M. nor at all on Thursday. We spent the time in doing all the last minute things. I think he was almost as glad for the respite as we.

On Wednesday A.M. Mr. Tappan & Mr. French started for Hoihow. They weren't sure when Dr Scott would come. If he came Thursday--early enough to come to Kachek in the PM--they would do so. Otherwise they would come early Friday A.M. with the dedicatory service to be held at noon. That afternoon clouds came up from the north and it was quite cool.

Thursday A.M.--11/13/30--was mostly cloudy. Again the time was filled with last minute things. No mail in the forenoon gave us a hunch the group might be coming that day & sure enough--about 2:30--the two cars drove in--Dr Scott, Mr. Wells, Dr. Veach, Dr. Crawford, Dr. Bercovitz, Dr. Chu & Elder Kâu.

They went over to the boy's school rather soon where speeches, etc. were made. Meanwhile the other women planned meals, etc. and I went to the hospital to help Mr. Thomas if I could.

Later, Dr. Bercovitz & Dr. Chu came over & we went thro' the hospital. Then Dr. B. & Mr. Thomas and I talked about the hospital some more. Dr B. later told me of many of the difficulties Miss Forbes had caused in Hoihow & of her attitude toward him. He was both hurt & angry--and with right--but he seemed to need reassurance, too!

Dinner was sort of a nightmare to me. I was made hostess of the table at which Dr Scott & Dr Veach were sitting. I'm no conversationalist & I didn't enjoy the meal. The men were tired and left early for their rooms. Dr. Veach is a man who has had considerable experience & success in religious education. He was asked to look over certain educational problems in the north of China & his valuable suggestions moved the Council to secure his services in an advisory capacity for a time. My only contact with him was thro' his daughter, Elizabeth Veach, who is a senior in Women's Medical this year. I didn't know her at all well tho' do recall she was one of the outstanding 'nice girls' in the 'horrid' Junior class of last year.

Dr. Crawford has been at Soochow for many years--is a tall, spare man with gray hair & bushy eyebrows. He is quiet but observant and appreciative. The four visitors from afar stayed over at the Manse with Mr. Tappan as their spokesman, if speech in Hainanese should be necessary. Drs. Bercovitz & Chu stayed in the Tappan house.

From 9 to 10 the next A.M. Miss Moninger gave a talk about Nodoa & its probelms & possibilities--inasmuch as it seems improbable that the group will be able to get to Nodoa. From 10 to 11:30 the men went to the market since Friday--11/14/30--was a market day. From all accounts they had an interesting time. A light buffet lunch was served here from 11:30 to 12:00 and slightly after 12:00 we assembled at the church. The school boys filled almost half of the men's section of the church. Zong Hoa acted as usher on the men's side

& Dr. Lee on the women's side. The wife of one of the city officials gave her card to all of the foreign women present. Pastor Ngôu was master of ceremonies. The other persons on the platform, in order of seating from left to right were: Dr. Chu, Dr Scott, Dr. Crawford, the pastor, Dr. Veach & Mr. Wells. Dr. Chu interpreted for Dr. Scott & Mr. Wells. I had never heard anyone interpret a whole speech before & found it interesting and less disconcerting than I had imagined. Mr. Bang of the boy's school took down the speeches but whether in toto or in outline I don't know.

The speeches, which followed a song by the congregation and a dedicatory prayer by Mr. Tappan, were in this order: (1) Dr. Scott (2) Mr. Wells (3) Dr. Chu (4) Representative of the market school (5) military man (6) Chamber of Commerce representative (7) head of local police (8) Dr. Crawford, (9) local police official (10) representative of Hoihow Hosp. board of directors (11) Standard Oil representative (12) Mr. Steiner (13) dentist from Hoihow (14) Mr. Thomas. The most of the speeches were long and the sitting became infinitely wearisome. During some of the speeches, and espeically during Dr. Chu's talk, Dr Bercovitz interpreted for Dr. Scott & Mr. Tappan went up to interpret for Mr. Wells.

The closing song was scarcely completed when a deafening banging of firecrackers outside indicated the gladness of the occasion! Everyone went outside and a picture was taken and then the group went over to the hospital for tea and a tour of inspection. The men lingered for some time talking over the situation as to needs and plans but the rest of us came back to the house for a few moments rest before going up to the Chinese feast, planned for 4:00 P.M. The services in the church had lasted from 12:00 to a quarter to three!

The feast was provided by the local church folk and was held in the chapel. There were between forty & fifty persons present. There were on each table to begin with, bananas, small oranges, or kas, sectioned for eating, watermelon seeds, the Japanese sea-weed gelatin, cut in Squares,--and pickled turnips besides small dishes of vinegar at each place. The cups at each place were kept filled with soda water. The courses were as follows: (1) Shark's fins (2)Birds nest soup (3)abalone (4) steamed chicken (5) Boiled or steamed wild duck (6) mushrooms (7) Pigs bones with sour sweet sauce & onions (8) tripe (9) Sea ginseng (10) oysters (11) peas & chicken (12) octopus (13) Eight precious fruits pudding (14)sweet soup (15) fish stomachs (16) chicken--cold (17) soft boiled rice. I can mark all with a + except 8,9,14. Would give 3,12,13, 15 a ± and 7,10,11,16 a ++!! Wasn't very expert with chopsticks either. Zong Hoa, Tsok Si and another Vang Chu sat at the same table with Miss M., Mrs. French & myself, and gave us instructions in the use of the chopsticks. But even tho' not expert, neither did I suffer any!

The church, chapel & administration building had all been decorated by the Chinese who seemed to take much delight in it all. The decorations consisted chiefly in banners, flags and ropes of cut colored paper.

During the few days preceding Dr. Scott's coming every one worked very hard. Mr. Lim and the schoolboys tidied up the school more than it had been for a long time. The workmen toiled valiantly to have a road built up to the hospital front door and to clear away debris of the old lime house at the back door, to level off and fill in the back court. They did a good job and the place looked pretty nice.

There was a meeting of the whole mission in the evening at the Tappan House. Mrs. Thomas could attend only part of the time but all the others were there. Mr. Tappan told of the early work down here in educational & evangelistic work, the way in which work was carried first among the mountain people. Then, Miss M. told of the beginnings of the women's work by Miss Schaeffer and of her trips to the Miau people and her desire to return.

Dr. B. gave a resumé of the medical work for the station and his hopes and plans for the work. He made an especial plea for light & water systems on the compound & types and costs were considered.

Had, myself, a bad headache & a great weariness--the meeting closed none too soon for my endurance.

In the AM--Saturday, 11/15/30--Dr. B. rose early & came to Hospital to do the hare-lip case. I came over, too, & later Dr. Chu arrived. Following several small annoyances, the operating was begun and completed with fair degree of speed. Think it will look very well, but, plainly Dr. B. isn't enthusiastic about plastic work!

Arrived back at house at 7:15 for a waffle breakfast. Took a few pictures and then the cars assembled and the folks departed. It had been nice to have them here and I think they all enjoyed their visit --but we were all tired and did not greatly regret their departure.

I spent most of the day in my room, cleaning up & arranging my desk for the work I'll have to do over here next week. It wasn't strenuous work but was, nevertheless, work. Am so weary tonight.

November 18.

Sunday was a usual day. Was too let down to make any effort at correspondence--and think everyone else felt much the same. Couldn't concentrate enough to hear and write down words understood in the sermon. Miss M. had charge of our service in P.M. She went over to hosp. with me afterwards & I looked at babies again. Forceps case just finished--infant has blade mark on face.

Monday--classes again. Certainly didn't feel like working & had forgotten so much. Finished moving over to our own house & slept in my own bed last nite. It was very nice, too--hardly knew I had a lame back. Our cook got meals for us today & did fairly well. Went to market with Miss M. this noon--my only purchase was a sheet of drawing paper. There is so much I should do but I've no energy now.

November 21.

Miss Moninger & I had planned last nite for a house-warming, inviting the foreign women and the Chinese women on the compound. Ma Hui helped Mŏu Hŏng make doughnuts & he had previously made cocanut candy so we were all in readiness. About 7:00 they began to assemble. Dr Lee, Tsok Si, Tsi Fang, Mrs Lim, Mrs. Bang and . A little later Mrs. Thomas & Mrs. French arrived. A peanut hunt, peanut race, poor pussy & filling grandmother's trunk occupied the time & gave much merriment until about 8:45 when a messenger arrived to notify Dr. Lee & Tsi Fang that a woman was in labor at the hospital But there was time for refreshments & these we served hurriedly for a woman in labor does not wait, tho' I was more leisurely when I learned it was a primipara.

I enjoyed having them here and think they all had a good time. I still like Tsok Si the best. Mrs. Lim--Hang Si--is very pretty and peppy. Mrs. Bang is quiet and seems shy. Tsi Fang is rather serious but full of fun, too. It is odd how Dr. Lee is so obviously of another race--Chinese as are these, of course--but so different, in appearance and in attitude.

After they were gone, Miss M. told me that Mr. Thomas had told her before the party that the Chinese feared an attack last nite--a village to the south & east had been attacked the nite before & a group of malcontents had been noted assembling out on the fou for several nites. The market people and the Christians here were much alarmed. A **patrol was** organized to patrol the compound from 9 to 5. Mr. Thomas wanted us to stay with the Frenches because they do not speak Hainanese well, yet. And he told them he wanted us over there because there was no phone connection with our house yet! So--we were the goats & went over. That makes 27 beds for me since June 1st!

Of course, caution is advisable at all times but the age of chivalry has nearly passed & can rub pretty thin now-a-days. I can't say I enjoy leaving my own house just because there is no man in it!

November 29.

In the same connection with the above Lôe Tintae asked me if I had been afraid on last Thursday. I told him 'No' and gave my reasons. Then he went on to say there was nothing to fear & it was really our duty to stay. Then he quoted--'Jesus said 'The good Shepherd keeps his sheep.' I was very interested in his reaction and feel it is probably the reaction most of the Chinese have.

On Sunday--11/23/30--Dr. Lee went to Hoihow to have some dental work done. She had been much frightened on Thursday--11/21/30--and the Chinese seem to feel that her going to Hoihow was scarcely due 10 parts to her toothache. It has seemed to hurt her status with them --unfortunately.

On Saturday--or Friday, perhaps,--Miss M. had written Miss Skinner of the events of Thursday nite & all the folks out there promptly took alarm and decided that they wouldn't come down here for Thanksgiving! Well, Mrs. Campbell was ill & couldn't have come anyway--but the Steiner's and Griffith and Miss Skinner could have made it perhaps. But they didn't. So all the folks here had dinner together over at the Tappan house. Mrs. French had **fixed** up the table beautifully and had place cards for us. The meal was an excellent one--soup, roast duck, nut & raisin dressing, mashed potatoes, wonderful gravy!, creamed peas, baèh sài,tomato jelly salad, raisin pie, coffee, nuts and fruit. I certainly enjoyed it. After-wards we were talking & wishing for an American mail, when it came--many letters for Miss M. & the Frenches & four for me. The Thomas family fared quite well, too. So we read our mail & then occupied ourselves as desired until 4:45 P.M. when we again assembled at the Tappan house for service. Mr. French had charge of it--the responsive reading was Psalms 100 & 103--**in part**. David Hugh and Daniel read appropriate Scripture verses. After a prayer, Mr. French put on the blackboard a list of the things we should be thankful for--each list corresponding to the letters in Thanksgiving. David Hugh is clever in the words he suggested. After this service we all came to our house where tea, sandwixhes & cake were served. It was a very nice day, all told.

This week have been meeting Lôe Tintae alone each day for an hour. He is not very insistent on drilling, either in tones or vocabulary, and I suppose I will have to work out a sort of course of study to follow, myself. It is rather interesting to study alone, too. One afternoon he asked me about my family and then gave me his life history, too. There are parts of it that are interesting and, other parts, pathetic.

Miss Moninger was going on one night about how Mrs. F. should not be permitted to get frightened, or be alone, and so on, and I think I rather sprung a bomb by saying I didn't think she needed as much looking after as Mr. F. And I started her off on a tack to see that he had a chance to study alone. Why she had never seen that before I don't know--but I've a picture of Herbert & Evelyn Miller plainly before me & A.E.F. will never be a follower like Herbert--he is meant for a leader. I hope he will be happier now that he is studying alone.

December 3.

Another tardy entrance! On 11/29/30 my National Board Certificate came. Am glad its here. Later the same day Dr. Bercovitz drove in in her car with Mrs. Steiner, Dr. Lee & a friend of hers, Dr. Tiā & Mr. McGinnis in the Tappan car with Mr. Dio, the new language teacher. Mr. Foa came along, too. The housekeepers got together & decided Mr. Steiner & Dr. B. should have supper with us. I went to the hosp. with Dr. B. about dusk & we saw a few patients & he made a number of suggestions. He was in very good spirits and was qute complimentary! After supper--I came to bed, being beastly tired. Miss M., Mr Thomas Mr. Steiner & Dr B. held forth downstairs 'til after 12:00. One thing that distresses them all is Miss Shaeffers's imminent return, on her own resources. She will live here, if so. But they are trying to head her off some way--to save not only themselves, but others, later trouble. Another is Miss M's perhaps going to Kiungchow to relieve Miss Chapin next year--still a supposition only. And gobs of other things I know nothing of!

On Sunday we went to church, all but Mr. Thomas & Dr B who were in executive session in the hospital and after a little earlier dinner than usual Dr. B's car started back with Steiner, McGinnis, Foa, Dr Tiā & some one else I don't recall. Mr. T. & family in his car, AEF & wife & myself in the Tappan car accompanied them for about a half hour's drive. Then we returned to rest for the P.M. service which Evelyn conducted most ably.

Monday was a usual bright day 'til about 1:30 or 2:00 when it became overcast & started to iak. I didn't study in the P.M. & went to bed early. Had done a bit of sewing in the P.M. On Tues. AM woke with aching joints & a fever but got up & had my first hour of study. Then I went to bed again. My temp. curve was 6:00--99^{4}; 9:00 AM--99^{4}; 12 noon 99^{6}; 3:00 PM--101^{o}; 6:00 PM--100^{6}; 9:00 PM--98^{8}. I have never had such intense aching in bones & back--thank goodness I didn't chill & was only mildly dizzy. Took enough quinine that my ears rang badly & at 9:00 PM I had difficulty in hearing at all unless one was right in the room

This AM--have head & eye ache, but no bone pains. Am up but not studying. While I had hoped not to have fever, am not sorry for the experience. I'll be able to sympathize more thoroly with others now.

December 10.

On Thursday began to have blurring of vision and felt I was getting an overdose of quinine so stopped it & rather rested my eyes the rest of the week. My teacher was very asthmatic & wheezy on Friday and I wasn't using my eyes so the lesson was a difficult one. Saturday I worked on my map--some--was over at the hosptial a little--and didn't really do much. Got R.E.M.'s old letters out of the trunk and began to re-read & tear them up. Sunday had a beastly headache all day. It rained in A.M. Dr Lee, Tsok Si & Tsi Fang were here for dinner--a good meal--then we showed them our rooms. I had charge of afternoon

services & read a sermon from the Christian Herald. This week had been relatively uneventful. It was decided the French's, M.M.M. & myself should go to Hoihow this week & the Thomas later. I wasn't much in favor of my going but folks tell me I'll be like Miss Chapin if I don't go--well, there might be worse fates! Why traipse off when there's absolutely nothing to go for, except to be going? It will be expensive & will be very tiring & I've not yet had a chance to rest--am getting so tired. They always think up something more to do. If it was just studying & eating & sleeping it would be relatively simple but it's entertaining this one or that one, it's going to market, it's lectures at night--and so on--ad infinitum. No chance to do the reading one is advised & required to do--no chance to read just for relaxation--scarcely chance to rest & precious little privacy. If I'm ever a senior missionary I hope I'll not hound younger missionaries to know what they are doing with their time--but I probably will, being my mother's daughter! and more & more like her every day. Well--that's off my chest!

Went with Miss M. today (Mrs. F. also went & Tun Hoa & the older woman who does religious work) to a village & to see a Christian family near the village. It was quite interesting--saw considerably pretty country--several little gems of landscape. Saw innumerable fields, dozens of folks and so on. The two homes we were in were quite clean--one was a Christian & one a non-Christian home. In each we were very courteously treated. In the Christian home after about half an our of visiting a hymn was sung & prayer offered--closing with the Lord's Prayer--the words of which I recognized but I was totally unable to talk. Mrs. French repeated it well. Am tired tonite--was too tired on way home to care for the everlasting & evanescent chatter. Why must folks always talk? I'm getting so tired.

December 14.

On Thursday--12/11/30--at 12 noon we started for the port. There had been rumors of trouble out there & it seemed to me folks were none too sanguine about our going. We went another route than we had come in and crossed the river much higher up than before. The ferry at this place was not a motor ferry but we were poled across by man power. The scenery along this road is wilder in most places than on the other--and prettier I think. It was a good road now but would be terrible in wet weather. Arrived in the city about 3:20 P.M., surprising everyone. It seems they had considerable excitement over the first of the week. The ferry at Haiu Khóu was burned & some persons killed on Sunday. On Monday some villages nearby were burned & the Red army--of a size indeterminate--were said to be advancing on the city. People were frightened, many went to Hongkong, the boys school ceased to function for lack of students, many of the girls were taken from their school work by frightened parents, etc. The folks at the City were packed ready to go should it be necessary. Mr. Wan and Mr. McGinnis watched in the church tower all Monday night. Everyone was glad to see us but tho't we had considerable temerity in coming out now--well, we knew only in part of the events there anyway.

Mrs. Campbell served tea about 4:30 and we had a lovely dinner with Miss Skinner & Miss Chapin at 7:00. String beans & cold slaw were the choicest articles & tasted so good. Miss M. & I were given Miss Skinner's bed to sleep in & I didn't sleep very well--for several reasons!

On Friday we all went to the port--did a little shopping & reached the Compound about 11:30 perhaps. I stopped at the Hospital to see

the doctor & did he give me a line? I had had a hunch from Miss McCreery's letter on Sunday that the doctor didn't want to leave the hospital with some foreign MD in charge & felt that in time I might have to go down. Well, it seems that is his idea but he was afraid to suggest it on two counts--Thomas's & Miss M. I get his point of view thoroly & do concur in his opinion & told him I'd be glad to do whatever he wished if it could be arranged with folks here. Of course, Miss Macdonald is another source of worry & he said positively she should not be without observation daily; that if it could not be arranged that I go to Hoihow, she must by all odds be sent to Kachek. He suggested I talk to D.H.T. & M.M.M. on our return here & get their opinions. Then, later, while he & M.M.M. were sitting together an opening occurred for him to suggest the matter & he did. She wasn't in favor of my leaving Kachek but wasn't too opposed--apparently, tho' later, she & Miss Skinner both tho't it wildest foolishness for me to go. So I held my peace!

Friday evening the French's were at Steiner's & so Grif came over & played rook with M.M.M & Miss Chapin and I. I'm not too crazy about the game, but it does well enough to pass the time.

Sat. A.M. there was word that a bridge we had crossed on Thursday had been burned & the ferry up river was uncertain. We were advised to wait until Monday but I felt we must come on down & Miss M. was on the fence. Anny-huh we started--crossed at the first ferry & struck the Ham-Khou road & on in the usual road. There was very little traffic over it, however, & every car we met or passed was driving as if something was after it. The roads were fine, however. We were stopped by soldiers once who looked suspicious but aside from that instance there was little to cause alarm. Arrived in Kachek at 3:40 to the great relief of everyone. Soldiers had been moving in & out of Kachek ever since we left & there had been numerous orders to keep foreigners off the road!

Some weeks ago I made up my mind to the purchase of a car in about a year. Yesterday's experience--some one else's car & someone else the driver--convinced me that I will have a car as soon as I can afford same. I intend to be as independent as possible.

Talked with D.H.T. about my talk with Dr. B. & he seemed rather in favor of my move there--apparently feeling it would be easier & safer to have Miss Macdonald there than here. He is to talk to Miss M. today & let me know so I can write to Dr. B. Such a life!

December 20,

I reinterate my last statement. Such a life! 'Iak koa' on Mondays & no Hoihow mail. Mr. T. talked to Miss M. & wrote rather a 'hot' letter to Hoihow and on Thurs. had a reply from Mr. Steiner (Dr. & family having gone to Hongkong on Saturday last) stating that Miss McCreery & Miss Macdonald had said they could get along without me, all of which is perfectly true but which isn't what was desired. Meanwhile on Wed. I had written Miss McCreery stating I was willing to go & would like to go. Someway I feel that the tone of Mr. Thomas' letter influenced Mr. Steiner's reply & I'm sorry, but as I've said before it isn't for me to decide under any circumstances, anyway. I just hope nothing happens at Hoihow hospital--for feelings are too strained anyway for the Dr. to have a chance to say 'I told you so! There are too many positive personalities for him to combat!

Some excitement this week, too--on Sunday the market was all wrought up and suggested we be connected with them by phone. So a phone connection was made--with our house! There were calls off &

on all nite. Next day the market was more quiet & the phone connection was changed from our house to Pastor Ngôu's.

On Wednesday nite--12/17/30--Miss M. woke me about 2:25 AM that she had heard shots on the fo & a bugle call & had seen a light at Thomas' & had heard footsteps running past our house. Shortly after we heard many footsteps & then Mr. Thomas' voice calling us to go up to the chapel. We dressed & went up & found the school-boys & all the Chinese on the compound in the court up there. Their idea seemed to be, to be near the gate so as to make a break if trouble seemed imminent. Mr. Thomas idea was to get his family away from that isolated corner of the compound in case trouble should break down there--as the shots outside seemed to indicate might occur. We were at the chapel an hour & then returned to our house where we put the kiddies to bed & Mrs. F. in with me & Mr. F on a long chair downstairs. Mr. Thomas wandered around, I guess--I don't really know where he was.

In the morning Lôe Tintae gave several people all sorts of a scoring for their attitude & actions the nite before--said Mr. Lim had something lacking & Tsok Si was always scoring Dr. Lee & Tsi Tang needlessly, etcetera et al! He reiterated his statement that we needn't fear & told us to stay in our own homes at nite.

Mrs. Thomas asked us to tea in the afternoon & the momentous question before the house was the matter of servants' gardens! No decision was reached! The Thomas family slept at French's on Thursday nite--it removed them from their isolated corner & made the minds of all much easier.

Friday we were all invited to a feast to celebrate the betrothal of Zong Hòa and Tôi Fang. It is a desirable match from every angle & both foreigners & Chinese are glad about it. The feast was given at the Girls school & those present were: all the foreigners, the prospective bride & groom, Dr. Lee, Tsok Si. A-Siú (a relative of the bride) the two market druggists, the 'straw boss', Lôe Tintae & Dio Tintae, Pastor Ngòu, Mr. Lee who teaches in the boys school, Mr. Lim, Mr & Mrs. Bang, Tùn Hoa, King Kwang (hospital druggist), & I can't recall any others. It was a nice moderately priced feast & all the food was good.

American mail today & a letter from R.E.M.--she had just reached her new location. Hope she will be happy there.

Dr. Lee bro't over some packages today & mine contained a lovely embroidered bed spread. I am quite overwhelmed. I had admired hers one day when I was up there, but had done so quite idly--and this is what I get! I don't know what to do for her--if anything--and yet feel I should give her something. Again, such a life!

December 31.

My last chance for an entry this year! The day after the above entry, i.e. 12/21/30 was Sunday, and an unseasonably warm day--every one blossomed out in white suits and dresses. Miss M. & I had dinner at the Thomas home. Their table boy was leaving that day & they regretted his going greatly for he was good.

A heavy rain wakened me rather early--12/22/30--was tired for there had been some shooting the nite before. Pastor Ngôu had phoned & Miss M. went over to tell them about his report. Rained most of day & cooler. Tintae did not come in. On 12/23/30 Miss M. gave me a list of words to use with patients. Worked some on map & wrapped Christmas gifts. The next day we had a fire in the fireplace & it felt good. At 4:00 P.M. a feast was spread in the chapel. The Thomases,

Mr. French, Dio Tintae, Miss M. & myself were at one table. I think Dio Tintae felt horribly out of place among so many foreigners. He was a good sport & stuck it out. About 7:00 P.M. that same evening the Thomas boys, & the French's sang some carols outside our house. We joined them & sang two or three outside the pastor's house & then went down to sing for Jean & her parents--Jean having been ill with fever all day. Later in the evening we all went to the Thomas house to decorate the tree for the kid's Christmas. An evergreen is available on the island but usually costs a lot and is a lot of trouble to get. A hai-ho tree usually does very well--the glossy leaves are pretty and tinsel shows off well against them. Mr Thomas put on the candles & the Frenches & Miss M. adid most of the rest. I'm no good at that sort of thing.

Early on Christmas Day we went to Thomas' but early as we were, everyone was up, even the baby was dressed & in his buggy. Jean was bro't down & put on the couch. The rest of us sat in a circle while Mr. French with a pillow under his coat and a wisp of cotton on his chin played Santa Claus & delivered the gifts. I was well remembered --Mrs. French gave me a Chinese seal & an 'M' seal, Mrs. Thomas gave me a set of 6 cocanut fingerbowls with my 王 character on them, Miss M gave me a tapestry, a Chinese Seal & a pair of dress shields & there was a Manila luncheon set from Miss Chapin &--later--a Miau headdress from Miss Taylor. Besides which there were many cards.

The Christmas service was at 10:00. Pastor Ngôu spoke appreciatively of the singing the nite before & asked if Mr & Mrs French & the Kuniang would sing again. There were no English words around & we couldn't remember any except Silent Night. The first verse went pretty well but the next wasn't so hot! Then the pastor went ahead with the service & gave a good talk, stating there were as many kinds of people welcoming Christ's birth now as nineteen hundred years ago --people who compared to the shepherds, the Wise men, Anna & Simeon & even Herod. At the close of the service tea & cakes were served & close on the heels of that a fusillade of firecrackers proclaimed it a gala day.

At noon the foreigners again convened at the Thomas house and Mrs. Thomas gave us a lovely feed--the table was decorated with a house top with Santa climbing down with a pack on his back--with candles in tall candlesticks--and all her best glassware & china was in use. Then with duck and wonderful mashed potatoes, etc. with mince pie to finish off it was a perfect meal. I was decidedly uncomfortable when we were thro'! We sat & visited a while until Miss M. Was called to play for the wedding at the chapel. Soon thereafter I tried to leave too. Before I had gone far a letter was given me from Miss McCreery stating that a cablegram had arrived for me & been decoded as follows 'You will have two guests Miss Skinner one leaving Dec. 26. M. Bell' We assumed the second guest would be Katherine Jacobson since I'd had a letter from her previously that she & Dr Bell were considering a visit to Hainan but she had to give it up from lack of funds. The next question was--How? and who? to meet them & bring them down. After considering various ways & means Mr. Thomas & family decided they'd like to go out to the city for a day or so & would leave early Dec. 26. So it was arranged.

On Dec. 26 it was still cold but not too bad for travel & the Thomas' family left in good season. A big American mail came in the P.M. Dr. Lee came over & I told her of Dr. Bell's coming. Then she told me she was getting no cooperation from Tse Fong at all. We had quite a long talk & then on the strength of her remarks I wrote to

Creery. Zong Hoa & Dr. Lee had done an operation without my knowledge & I 'called' them both. Was quite sore & worked up.

The next day was warm & nice. The teacher came late & was the best instructor he ever had been for just ½ hour when he told me Zong Hoa had asked him to have me go to the OR at 11:00. They were only doing a circumcision but to save all our faces since I'd 'called' them, I went over.

The Thomas' had received a set of Anagrams & the French's & 'us' used them each evening the T. family was away!

Sunday--Dec. 28--was a lovely day. Mr. French took the pastor to Doa Lòu in the AM. Lòe Tintae went along to be the interpreter for A.E. should occasion arise--but it didn't. We waited dinner a little but the folks were slow in coming & it was about 2:20 PM two cars drive in--Mr. Thomas in the lead and Kathrine Jacobson driving Dr. Bercovitz car! There were three guests instead of two--Dr. Bell & a **Miss Clara Tingley from Hackett** had planned originally to come & had picked up Katherine at the last minute--loaning her money to come, too, it seems. Miss Tingley is a tall, rather spare, large framed girl of perhaps 23 or 24 with brown eyes and hair, & a pleasant sense of humor. I liked her very much after I knew her a little better--she is quiet & hard to know at first.

We fixed dinner for them & then they rested until 4:00. Miss M. had the service & it was good--I guess--I was too distrait to pay much attention. Late in the afternoon Dr. Lee came over--full of enthusiasms and pep. She is quite in love with her work tho' her associates are really not the most pleasant. She does have one girl friend--her suite mate--at True Light with whom she seems quite happy. The two of them date two teachers at Lingnam--a Mr. Zook whom M.M.M. knows and Herbert Wood from Hastings. This latter is Katherines friend--and she seems to enjoy him quite a bit. It gets her away from the unpleasantness at True Light and makes numerous social contacts, too. She has had one letter from 'the hero' and I guess he is still very much her hearts ideal. Dr. Bell says her program of Christmas music was a masterly thing--that its like had never been heard in Canton previously. She gave her all sorts of praise.

On Monday we told the girls they could do as they wished & they proceded to letter writing or reading as they severally desired. Dr. Lee invited us to tea at her house & we went up about 3:00 PM. Dr. Bell & Miss Tingley speak Cantonese quite fluently & Katherine with some greater fluency than one would expect from her brief residence in China. Dr Lee, of course, speaks Cantonese--tho' not perfectly, for her province is Fukien--Tse Fang understands it and speaks same **& Tsok Zi** wasn't entirely without understanding so that it was almost a Cantonese 'jabberfest'. After a time someone suggested climbing the church tower to view the country side. It was lovely up there. The air was quite clear and we could see the mountains plainly and the second range was visible, too. The fields, the valleys, the palms, the thickets--all looked so far away and so pretty. The market was a cluster of white buildings at our feet almost. That evening Katherine & Miss Tingley went to the French's for dinner & Dr. Lee came to our house. After supper she told Dr. Bell about Mr. Lim's illness & asked for some suggestions as to treatment.

On Tuesday we all went to market--it wasn't as large as they're used to in Canton, of course, but was a representative market crowd & proved Kachek larger than it looked at first sight. On our return Dr. Bell had quite a severe headache & stayed in bed while the rest

of us went to a picnic out on the fo. Had a real good time & on the walk home--around by the bridge--had a fine talk with Katherine. I stayed & talked with Dr Bell for a time while the others went to Thomases for a little while.

Dec. 31st was a nice day albeit a bit cloudy. Went with Dr. Bell to hospital & she gave me several good suggestions about the work there. We had seen Mr. Lim in AM. Abscess pointed at chin. Arranged to open at four PM. Dr Bell asked to do the work & she insisted Zong Hoa & Dr. Lee scrub.

Technique! I didn't know they knew so much--now they ought to always do as beautiful work as they did then.

In the evening the Fremch's came over & we played Anagrams. About 10:00 some one suggested watching the old year out & so we kept on with the Anagrams. Had crackers & bread & cheese and candy & nuts to munch on meanwhile. At the end of the year we went out into the air and found a soft moonlight and balmy air. The New Year was begun.

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It began to rain this AM & had almost poured at intervals all day. Am very tired.

February 11, 1931.

Much has occurred since the last entry. During Miss M's & the Frenches sojourn in Hoihow Jan 30-Feb. 4 the teacher gave several long & rather impassioned dissertations on the attitude the foreigner should take toward the Chinese here--said attitude to be one of humility, never scolding, always abetting, etc. etc. I took exception to the point regarding scolding--asking what attitude one should take toward those who have done wrong, when there is every evidence of wrongdoing and guilt. He did not answer directly--tried to evade the point. He gave one intimation that he felt the foreigner had no right to be here and would be happy when there was no longer any foreigners anywhere in charge. I gathered that they put up with us because of the American money which comes with us--and which is a help to them.

Dio Tintae left and Lôe Tintae wanted to teach all three of us for the extra money. Mr. Steiner & Mr. Tappan didn't think this wise. Now Lôe has refused to teach more than 12 hours per week & naturally the new teacher--Dai-Sang--will do no more than that either. It is 'balling' up the schedule considerably but has had the effect of making us all stubborn in refusing to offer more money--which is what they are looking for I'm sure. Were it not that Lôe is the best teacher hereabouts & has no other means of support save his teaching, I'd feel like dismissing him. That is out of the question, of course. The situation isn't pleasant. I have the feeling that all the Chinese on the place are about ready to put knives into us on very slight provocation.

I have my own private pet peeve, too. Dr. B. has written several dictatorial, not to say slightly unpleasant, missives. I've enough sense to feel that if I don't resist his attitude I'll be only a catspaw for him--and others. I have a very great antipathy toward spinelessness & don't intend to develop into that sort of person if it can be avoided. So I have been in a state of rebellion toward the doctor and his attitude. I don't know what the end will be. I've not been in such an attitude since the days of L.C. Snodgrass!

April 21, 1931.

It is a long interval from February 11 to April 21. A number of things have happened. I won't go into detail about anything save to mention that Administrative Board met here on February--25th & 26th. From March 5 to 25th Miss M. was away from Kachek, spending most of the time in Hongkong with Miss Schaeffer. Dr & Mrs. Charles E. Park of Yuankiang, Yunnan were in Hainan several days, stopping en route to America for furlough. They were in Kachek a few days and we enjoyed their visit, tho' I feel Dr. Park's influence on Mr. Thomas was quite depressing. Dr. Park has a very peculiar attitude toward his work--any missionary work in fact--feels evangelization is the only feature to stress & the greatest good to the greatest number is the best way to carry on medical work. At present that won't do here for our Chinese are demanding modern medical practice & nursing care.

The Easter service, April 5th, was interesting tho' scarcely quiet. There were crowds of women coming & going all the time. About 200 baptized Christians partook of the Communion. Mrs. French & the Thomas children had an Easter program for the English service & it was very much enjoyed. Mr. Tappan and Ruth Byrd & Miss McCreery were down for the Easter services.

The members of the station had a surprise dinner for me on my birthday and it was the most carefree day any one had had for a long time. I appreciated it greatly.

Word came on April 10th that Miss Schaeffer had died on the 8th. That same evening some heavy object fell on Bobby Thomas' right little toe. I suspected a fracture but decided to wait for an X-ray, inasmuch as we were going to Hoihow soon. An Xray on the 13th revealed no fracture. On April 17th an area of gangrene was plainly demarcated on top of toe. It was excised on the 18th & pt. began to recover.

We went to Hoihow on the 18th of April. Mrs. French with the Thomases in their car, Mr. French, Miss M. & myself with Kui-foang, Mou-hóng, A-Síu, Mu-zi, Tsok-su & the Thomas' wash woman in a native car. At the last minute Hàng-si & several others tried to crowd in, too. Finally, after much Chinese had rent the air, Hàng-si did go--paying her own fare, for which I'm glad--and the pastor's mother, as far as Liâng-dô-sang. It wasn't bad riding in the bus at all. A-siu was sick and vomited all over my suitcase! The drivers were careful, & at times the car reached a speed of 45 & even 50 miles tho' such speed was maintained only for a little while. I judge we averaged 30 to 35 miles the whole way.

I went to Miss McCreerys & cleaned up--and then went to the hospital for a while, before lunch. When we returned Miss Macdonald & Miss Taylor were there & both of them kissed me! The first session opened at 2:30 and was quiet & amicable. The personal reports were disposed of. The **next** day when it came to placing the Frenches, they were asked to leave & the discussion waxed warm. Only when a motion was passed that every person speak once and no rebuttals be allowed did the discussion ~~intense~~ wax, for everyone tried to put his or her rebuttal into the first speech! Some few personalities were indulged in. The most rabid & most cutting speakers were Mrs. Seaton & P.C.Melrose. After a prayer, the vote was taken & Nodoa had but one vote more than Kachek, but a Kachek voter moved it be made a unanimous vote for Nodoa. It was said afterward it might as well have been voted without prayer, so far as the effect on the vote was concerned. That evening Miss MacDonald and Miss Taylor started giving Mr. Thomas 'fits' of one sort & another & I lit in & told them what I tho't--tho' I didn't come down

on the foreigners as hard as I should have. I nearly cried. I was so mad & intense about it--& I did cry after I got to bed.

Then later Mrs. M.R.Melrose started in on me & made me more angry still. I let her know I didn't think their attitude toward Kachek was kindly at all. And I presume I was reserved toward her thereafter--anyway, she especially tried to make conversation with me a few times. I don't know what she thought of her efforts.

I was interested in my own reactions toward everyone during this meeting. I have never liked Mrs. Seaton especially & see less and less in her to admire. She has a chip on her shoulder continually. Her husband might be a likable fellow were he not so completely under her thumb. P. C. Melrose reminds me of someone--I can't think whom. He, too, carries a chip on his shoulder but not for love of it, as Mrs. Seaton does. He does it because he has a single track mind. Mrs. P.C. has a two-edged tongue but has more (quantity!) likable characteristics than either her husband or his mother. I think I will be kinder if I make my only comment of Mrs. M.R. that she is very capable. Miss Taylor is a broody Plymouth Rock hen. My feeling toward their station has always been that they take themselves very seriously! Now, I thank the Lord that I was not assigned to work there, and desire that I may not have to work there. If the Frenches ask me to visit them when they are there, or if Mission meeting should be held there, I'll likely visit the station--but there could be no other inducements. My attitude toward them, the Nodoa station, is very poor from a sociological & psychological point of view--but I'd prefer to give them what they "holler" for, if for no other reason than one humors a spoiled child--and by the same token, to block any move tney make to limit work in any other station, (for I could not see that they had any constructive ideas or desires for any place save Nodoa--if they had entertained such ideas or desires they were plainly unwelcome guests & therefore chose to be **un**obtrusive.

Mr. Steiner & Mr. Tappan more or less block out one another & yet each gives in with grace. Mr. Tappan may be visionary in some respects yet he has a practicality and a breadth of sympathy that no one else seems to have. Mr. Campbell was calm and practical always. I liked his comment--'I've seen 31 mission meetings and we always live thro' them.' It has a steadying influence to think of that. Miss Skinner is an admirable woman--there may have been criticisms of her work in the past but now no one need criticize her attitude or work either. I confess to much more admiration of the spirit the Thomas family show than I ever have before. Dr. Bercovitz is verbose but he knows what he wants & goes after it--and not infrequently gets it! My former impressions of Miss M. are only intensified. I can't **say** the week of Mission meeting was a happy one, yet is was extremely interesting. I pray that I may learn to live and think and act <u>consistently</u>.

<u>May 3, 1931</u>.

This record seems to be developing into a more or less personal account of doings and impressions. At that, I'm not sure but it is serving a purpose. It doesn't seem wise to breathe any confidences around &, being the sort of person who needs an outlet, I presume it's far wiser for me to spout off here, than to try to ease the situation in any other way. I tho't I'd gone over the situation relative to women in medicine often enough that my attitude on the subject was pretty well calloused and my feelings had a protective armor sufficiently thick to turn most, if not all, attacks. Evidently I had not calculated on flank attacks by <u>women</u>! I think I've made enough concessions. I find I do have some pride left.

June 2.

There had been rumors that Canton disturbances would affect the situation in Hainan. However, there seemed no immediate cause for alarm. On May 18th, Mr. Tappan came to take his sundry possessions out to Kiungchow. Miss Macdonald came down with him for a brief visit. On the 19th Mr. Tappan and four truck loads of goods atarted out to the city. Miss Macdonald stayed because Mr. Tappan intended to return the next day for the rest of his goods. That afternoon soldiers began moving out and the next day there was a general & quite complete exodus of soldiers. The Chinese tho't Mr. Thomas should take his family away from Kachek because with no soldiers there would likely be attacks by Reds. Miss Macdonald refused to go with them tho' foreigners & Chinese all tho't she should go. The Chinese on the compound tho't the rest of us foreigners ought to stay in the market chapel, for what little protection there was could be given by the market police. So we went to the chapel & slept on boards when we slept. The night was uneventful.

During the next few days the market barricaded itself with sandbags and barbed wire and mustered about a hundred armed men. Cots were taken to the chapel for the foreigners & I slept fairly well--enough so that my snoring annoyed the others! We had no word from the Thomas family or from Hoihow until the 23rd when Pastor Ngôu returned from Liang-do-sâng with word that the Thomases had not been able to cross the river & had gone over into Vun-sio. Also that there was heavy fighting at the city. By the 25th the market seemed less tense, mail had been sent out to Hoihow & soldiers were expected back in Kachek. We were still sleeping in the chapel.

On the 26th Mr. Tappan, Mr. McGinnis & Mr. Lí came down, giving accounts of the battle in Kiungchow--over sixty hours of continuous firing. The victors were the anti-Chiang-kai shek-men. Both hospitals filled with wounded--estimated 300 dead. No Christians injured save one child. Mission buildings rather badly shot up. They all left the next day taking Miss Macdonald with them.

All during the days that we spent here together, and the nights in the chapel, Miss Moninger & Miss Macdonald were just civil to one another. At times they seemed ready to fly at one another. It was an illuminating period as far as their respective personalities were concerned. I'm afraid I'll have to revise my first impression of Miss Macdonald--well, of Miss Moninger, too.

June 7, 1931.

Affairs at the hospital have been coming to a 'head' for a long time. There has been a united effort on the part of Zóng-hoa, Tse-fang & Dr. Lee against Tsok-zíh and she against them. Some time ago she adopted a little eight months old baby girl--quite Okeh & it did not interfere with her work apparently but her temper has been most uncertain since then. I have had a few matters bro't to my attention in which she has interfered quite manifestly with the patients and in matters that are none of her affairs. Before the disturbances when the soldiers left, we had asked Pastor Bang to speak to her, asking that she tend to her own affairs, but in the excitement he had said nothing. Well, things were getting worse & worse so on May 31, Mr. Thomas spoke to her, requesting coöperation & less scolding on her part of everyone, patients especially. On the next day Pastor Bang <u>did</u> speak to her in the same way. Then on June 2nd, early in the morning Tsok zíh jumped all over Miss Moninger for telling tales about her & having her scolded by Pastor Bang, stated she was leaving & asked that I come over and go over the stores with her at 11:00 A.M. Miss M. feels very badly for she has always liked & definded Tsok zih whenever any one criticized